GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:580
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
PRE-NATAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide adequate health care and nutritious food to the expectant mothers under pre-natal health care facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the facilities are likely to be provided to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 580 FOR 30.4.2003

A number of schemes for providing adequate health care to expectant mothers are being implemented as part of the ongoing RCH Programme. These interventions include essential obstetric care including prophylaxis and treatment of iron deficiency anaemia, emergency obstetric care; provision of referral transport through panchayats and provision of drugs and equipment at sub-centers, primary health centers, community health centers and first referral units.

Keeping the importance of maternal nutrition during the pregnancy in view, the Planning Commission has operationalised a pilot project in 51 districts of the country, through the Department of Women and Child Development for the undernourished expectant pregnant women and adolescent girls. The scheme envisages providing food grains at the rate of 6 kg. per month, totally free of cost for a period of 3-6 months.

In order to improve the benefits of the existing interventions and to promote institutional deliveries, there is a proposal to introduce a new scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. This scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme with the ongoing Maternal Health Schemes but will also introduce several new initiatives. The main features of the new scheme would be as follows:

(i) The scheme will be 100% centrally sponsored

(ii) The benefit will be available to all women living in both rural and urban areas

(iii) All women aged 19 years and above, belonging to households below poverty line will be eligible for taking benefit of this scheme.

(iv) The implementation in the urban areas will be through Municipal Health authorities and in rural areas, through the Chief Medical Officers of the districts.

(v) Up to two live births, assistance of Rs. 500/- for birth of male child and Rs. 1000/-for birth of a female child. For pregnant women who opt for sterilization, she would be given the benefit of the scheme, even after the birth of two children.

(vi) While three antenatal check-up will not be insisted upon, delivery in health centres/hospitals will be necessary for availing the benefits.

(vii) Assistance up to Rs. 150/- for transporting the pregnant women to a health centre/hospital will be provided.

(viii) Self-declaration will be accepted for Below Poverty Line (BPL) status in case the pregnant woman does not possess a BPL card

(ix) Dais will be paid incentive amount of Rs. 25 per case where they take the pregnant women to health centers/hospitals, for delivery.

(x) The scheme will be implemented at the State level through the Department of Family Welfare in the States/UTs.District Level Committees will have the responsibility of implementing the scheme in their respective districts through the ANM/Anganwardi workers with whom an imprest amount of Rs. 5,000/- will be placed for disbursement to the beneficiaries after delivery.